



National Infrastructure Protection Plan

Commercial Facilities Sector

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7) identified 17 critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR) sectors and designated Federal Government Sector-Specific Agencies (SSAs) for each of the sectors. Each sector is responsible for developing and submitting Sector-Specific Plans and sector-level performance feedback to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to enable national cross-sector CI/KR protection program gap assessments. SSAs are responsible for collaborating with private sector security partners and encouraging the development of appropriate information-sharing and analysis mechanisms within the sector.

Sector Overview

Facilities associated with the Commercial Facilities Sector operate on the principle of open public access, meaning that the general public can move freely throughout these facilities without the deterrent of highly visible security barriers. The majority of the facilities in this sector are owned and operated by the private sector, with minimal interaction with the Federal Government and other regulatory entities. For the most part, commercial facility owners and operators must be responsible for assessing and mitigating their specific facility vulnerabilities and practicing prudent risk management and mitigation measures. The Commercial Facilities Sector consists of the following eight subsectors:

1. Public Assembly (e.g., arenas, stadiums, aquariums, zoos, convention centers);
2. Sports Leagues (e.g., professional sports leagues and federations);
3. Resorts (e.g., casinos);
4. Lodging (e.g., hotels, motels, conference centers);

5. Outdoor Events (e.g., theme and amusement parks, fairs, campgrounds, parades);
6. Entertainment and Media (e.g., motion picture studios, broadcast media);
7. Real Estate (e.g., office and apartment buildings, condominiums, self-storage); and
8. Retail (e.g., retail centers and districts, shopping malls).

Sector Partnerships

HSPD-7 designated Federal Government SSAs to collaborate with private sector partners and encourage the development of appropriate information-sharing and analysis mechanisms within the sectors. DHS is the designated SSA for the Commercial Facilities Sector.

To effectively carry out the public-private partnership critical to infrastructure protection, the Commercial Facilities Sector has partnered with private sector representatives from each of the eight subsectors to form the Commercial Facilities Sector Coordinating Council (CF-SCC).

The CF-SCC is designed to serve as the chief interface between private sector owners and operators, DHS, and other Federal agencies.

The Commercial Facilities Government Coordinating Council (CF-GCC) was created to foster inter- and intra-agency coordination on homeland security issues and to provide a single point of entry for private infrastructure security partners into the Federal Government. The CF-GCC will provide national coordination of commercial facility strategies and activities.

CI/KR Protection Issues

An attack on one type of commercial facility will most likely impact all facilities of that type (e.g., an attack at one shopping mall may result in a decline in attendance at shopping malls across the country). Likewise, an increase in security at a facility, which would impede the flow of the public, may result in the public patronizing another less restrictive facility (e.g., security screening in one hotel lobby may result in guests going to a hotel without screening). Furthermore, the Commercial Facilities Sector is supported through the public's spending of discretionary funds. An attack on a shopping mall, amusement park, casino, or hotel could have a devastating and long-term economic impact on the Nation's economy.

The day-to-day protection of commercial facilities is the responsibility of the owners and operators, in close cooperation with local law enforcement. The Federal Government's responsibility for the protection of commercial facilities is more or less indirect. Its activities include providing timely threat indications and warnings, as well as working with organizations that develop standards and guidance for facility construction, operations, and security. Given the national-level visibility and potential human and economic consequences of prominent commercial facilities, it is important for the Federal Government and the Commercial Facilities Sector to work together to ensure the protection of our Nation's prominent business centers and gathering places.

Priority Programs

DHS oversees the implementation and execution of protective measures programs across the Commercial Facilities Sector. Some of the programs currently underway include:

- **Site Assistance Visits (SAVs).** SAVs are normally one-day visits conducted jointly by DHS and the facility's owner/operator to facilitate vulnerability identification. It is a qualitative exercise that looks at the facility's operations, utility management, crisis management, physical and cyber security, operational security, infrastructure interdependencies, and systems affected. The specific elements or tasks associated with each phase of the SAV are tailored to meet the specific facility and infrastructure objectives.

- **Vulnerability Identification Self-Assessment Tool (ViSAT).** DHS is launching a series of on-line ViSAT modules. Initial modules of this tool were designed and developed in partnership with owners and operators for use by stadium, arena, and convention center managers to raise the level of security in public assembly facilities across the Nation. Because facility managers are in the best position to protect their own facilities, this tool allows them to assess their current security posture and continue to enhance security at their particular facility.
- **Soft Target Awareness Course (STAC).** STAC offers individual training modules on Terrorism Awareness that are geared toward stadiums and arenas, places of worship, malls and shopping centers, hotels, and large buildings. Each course is four hours in length with scenario-guided discussions tailored to specific industries. DHS has partnered with national associations to facilitate enrollment of a target audience that includes property/facility managers and front-line security and safety officers.
- **Protective Security Advisor (PSA) Program.** To better partner with State governments, local communities, and businesses, DHS is placing PSAs in communities throughout the country to assist with local efforts to protect critical assets and provide a local perspective to the national risk picture, as well as facilitate the execution of DHS protective programs. PSAs are critical infrastructure protection and vulnerability assessment specialists with a wealth of anti-terrorism and security experience.

In addition to the protective measures being performed and developed by the Federal, State, and local governments, members of the Commercial Facilities Sector are undertaking initiatives of their own and partnering with the governments to develop and implement numerous protective and responsive measures.



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For questions or more information, please contact NIPP@dhs.gov or visit www.dhs.gov/nipp.